

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 082964
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:GDKULICK:DF
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN
EUR/WE:MDURKEE
S: MR. SPIEGEL

-----132304Z 059859 /61

R 132007Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T STATE 082964

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS/3

TAGS: PFOR, SP, IS

SUBJECT: NORMALIZATION OF SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

1. SUMMARY: AS PROMISED DURING SECRETARY'S VISIT TO ISRAEL, WE APPROACHED SPANISH GOVERNMENT CONCERNING NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. SPANISH INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY EXPECT TO DO SO AT SOME POINT, RESTORATION OF RELATIONS UNLIKELY UNTIL FURTHER PROGRESS IS ACHIEVED TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. RESULTS OF OUR APPROACH SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO GOI. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE QUESTION OF THE NORMALIZATION OF SPANISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL WAS RAISED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON. ALLON SAID THAT SPAIN, UNDER ARAB PRESSURE, WAS HOLDING BACK ON ITS
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PROMISE TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL. THE SECRETARY SAID WE WOULD SPEAK TO THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON THE MATTER.

3. EMBASSY MADRID WAS INSTRUCTED TO RAISE ISSUE WITH SPANISH GOVERNMENT, REFERRING TO EARLIER INDICATIONS OF OVERALL PROCESS OF RENEWING AND ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH VARIOUS COUNTRIES.

4. SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED OUR CHARGE IN MADRID TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SOLANO. IN DOING SO, CHARG OBSERVED THAT PRESENT SPANISH GOVERNMENT SEEMED LESS OPEN TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL THAN THE KING'S FIRST GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN. SOLANO SAID THAT THE CHANGE WAS MORE ONE OF NUANCE THAN OF SUBSTANCE. SPAIN HAD NOTHING AGAINST ISRAEL BUT WANTED TO RESERVE ITS MOVE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION UNTIL THAT MOVE MIGHT HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT TOWARD RESOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT A MOVE TOWARD NORMALIZATION NOW COULD MAKE SUCH A CONTRIBUTION. SOLANO THEN ADDED THAT THERE WAS ALSO AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE THAT HELD SPAIN BACK, VIZ., THE OCCUPATION OF TERRITORY BY FORCE. BECAUSE OF SPAIN'S POSITION THAT BRITAIN HOLDS PART OF GIBRALTAR BY FORCE, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR SPAIN TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL UNTIL PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ARAB TERRITORIES IT OCCUPIES. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, SPAIN LOOKS FORWARD TO A TIME WHEN IT COULD MAKE A HELPFUL MOVE TOWARD RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

5. CHARGE SHOULD CONVEY ESSENCE OF THE FOREGOING TO ALLON OR AVINERI AT NEXT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY. EMBASSY SHOULD STRESS SENSITIVE NATURE OF U.S. APPROACH TO SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND URGE ISRAELIS TO KEEP THIS FACT CONFIDENTIAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, RECOGNITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE082964
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GDKULICK:DF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0999
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacalm.tel
Line Count: 89
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 834eb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2818321
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORMALIZATION OF SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, IS, SP
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/834eb2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009